

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 24, 2004. Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 25, 32-34, 38, and 43, cancelled claims 4, 6, 16, 20, 28, 36, 39, and 47, and added new claims 49-53. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-15, 17-19, 21-27, 29-35, 37, 38, 40-46 and 49-53 are pending upon entry with this amendment.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim(s) 1-4, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22-26, 29, 30, 34-38, 43-46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tzelnic et al. (USPN 6,366,987). The Examiner objected to claims 5-7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 27, 28, 31-33, 36, 39-42 and 47 as including subject matter that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 25, 32, 34, 38 and 43 to include limitations recited in various dependent claims identified by the Examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has cancelled claims 4, 6, 16, 20, 28, 36, 39 and 47. Consequently, claims 1, 15, 19, 25, 34, 38 and 43 and the claims dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

New Claims:

Applicant has added claims 49-53 to the pending application. The applied reference fails to disclose or suggest the inventions defined by Applicant's new claims, and provides no teaching that would have suggested the desirability of modification to arrive at the claimed inventions. New independent claim 49 incorporates the limitations of claims 1 and 5. The Examiner indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1. New claim 50, dependent on claim 49, further includes the limitations of claim 9, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable. Therefore, new claims 49-51 are in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 52 includes the limitations of claim 15 and claim 17. The Examiner indicated that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 15. Therefore, new claim 52 is in condition for allowance. New

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claim 53 includes the limitations of claim 38 and claim 40. The Examiner indicated that claim 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 38. Therefore, new claim 53 is in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added by the new claims.

CONCLUSION

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

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SHUMAKER & SIEFFERT, P.A.
8425 Seasons Parkway, Suite 105
St. Paul, Minnesota 55125
Telephone: 651.735.1100
Facsimile: 651.735.1102

By:

Kent J. Sieffert

Name: Kent J. Sieffert
Reg. No.: 41,312